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Central Eurasia

Federal Law on Election of Deputies to Duma

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SUPPLEMENT

Federal Law on Election of Deputies to Duma

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***Federal Law on Election of Deputies to Duma**

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[Federal Law No. 90-F3 on Elections of Deputies to State Duma of Federation Assembly of Russian Federation, passed by State Duma on 9 June 1995, approved by Federation Council on 15 June 1995, and signed by President B. Yeltsin in Moscow on 21 June 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text]

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Fundamental Principles of Participation by Citizens of Russian Federation in Elections of Deputies to State Duma of Russian Federation Federal Assembly

Deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly (hereafter referred to as State Duma deputies) will be elected by citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage with a secret ballot. Participation by a citizen of the Russian Federation in the elections will be voluntary.

Section 2. Legislation on Elections of State Duma Deputies

The legislation on elections of State Duma deputies will consist of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law "On the Fundamental Guarantees of the Voting Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation," this Federal Law, and other federal laws.

Section 3. Voting Rights of Citizens of Russian Federation

A citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 18 by election day will have the right to elect State Duma deputies.

Any citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 21 by election day may be elected to serve as a State Duma deputy.

A citizen of the Russian Federation living or traveling outside the territory of the Russian Federation during the period of preparations for the elections and during the elections themselves will be fully entitled to exercise his right to vote in elections of State Duma deputies.

A citizen of the Russian Federation who has been declared incompetent by a court of law or is serving a sentence in a place of detention will not be entitled to vote or be elected.

Section 4. Scheduling of Elections of State Duma Deputies

In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, elections of deputies to a new State Duma will be scheduled by the President of the Russian Federation. Election day will be the first Sunday after the end of the constitutional term for which the previous State Duma was elected. Scheduled elections must be announced at least four months prior to election day.

If the President of the Russian Federation fails to schedule elections of State Duma deputies by the date stipulated in the first paragraph of this section, elections of State Duma deputies will be conducted by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the first Sunday of the month following the month of the expiration of the State Duma's term of office.

If the State Duma is dissolved in the cases and according to the procedures envisaged by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation will simultaneously schedule elections of deputies to a new State Duma. In this case, election day will be the last Sunday before the end of the three-month period following the dissolution of the State Duma. In this case the time periods specified in this Federal Law for various election activities will be reduced by one-fourth.

If the President of the Russian Federation has dissolved the State Duma and has not scheduled elections of deputies to a new State Duma, the elections of State Duma deputies will be conducted by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the first Sunday after the end of the three-month period following the date of the dissolution of the State Duma.

Section 5. Elections to State Duma

In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the State Duma will consist of 450 deputies:

The first 225 State Duma deputies will be elected in single-seat electoral districts (one deputy for each district) on the basis of a standard level of voter representation for each single-seat electoral district, with the exception of electoral districts formed within the territory of Russian Federation members where the number of voters falls below the standard level of representation. The standard level of voter representation in a single-seat electoral district will be established by dividing the total number of voters in the Russian Federation by the 225 single-seat electoral districts;

The other 225 State Duma deputies will be elected in the federal electoral district in proportion to the number

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of ballots cast for federal lists of candidates nominated by election associations and election blocs.

Section 6. Right To Nominate Candidates for Deputy

The right to nominate candidates for deputy may be exercised directly by voters or by election associations and election blocs.

Section 7. Election Preparations and Proceedings by Electoral Commissions

Electoral commissions will be responsible for the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and will conduct the elections and oversee the observance of the voting rights of citizens.

During the preparations for elections and on election day the electoral commissions will act independently of federal and local government agencies within the confines of the powers granted to them by federal laws.

The decisions electoral commissions make within the confines of their authority will be binding for state governing bodies, agencies of local self-government, state enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and their officials.

Section 8. Right To Conduct Election Campaigns

The state will guarantee the freedom of citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations to conduct campaign activity in accordance with this Federal Law.

Citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations will be entitled to use any legal methods and legally sanctioned types of activity to persuade voters to vote for or against a particular candidate or the federal list of candidates nominated by an election association or election bloc.

Candidates for deputy, election associations, and election blocs will be guaranteed equal access to state news media.

Section 9. Financing of Elections of State Duma Deputies

Measures connected with the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and with the elections themselves will be financed with federal budget funds.

Candidates for deputy, election associations, and election blocs will set up their own election funds for campaign financing.

Section 10. Glasnost in State Duma Deputy Election Preparations and Proceedings

The preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and the elections themselves will be conducted openly and publicly.

All of the decisions of electoral commissions and federal and local government agencies connected with preparations for elections and with the elections themselves must be published.

CHAPTER II. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND ELECTION PRECINCTS

Section 11. Creation of Electoral Districts

Elections of State Duma deputies within the territory of the Russian Federation will require the creation of 225 single-seat electoral districts, which must meet the following requirements:

electoral districts within the boundaries of a single Russian Federation member will have an equal number of voters, with variation limited to 10 percent, or to 15 percent in the case of nearly inaccessible and remote regions;

the electoral district will constitute a single territory: no other electoral district may be created within the boundaries of this territory.

One electoral district will be created within the territory of each Russian Federation member where the number of voters is lower than the standard level of representation.

Electoral districts will be created by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the basis of data submitted by agencies of the executive branch of government of Russian Federation members on the number of voters living within the territory of these Russian Federation members. The boundaries of electoral districts will be confirmed by a federal law, which must be published at least 110 days prior to election day.

If the State Duma is dissolved or if the boundaries of electoral districts are not approved within the time period stipulated in the third paragraph of this section, elections of deputies to the new State Duma will be conducted in the electoral districts approved for the elections to the previous State Duma.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be responsible for the official publication of lists of single-seat electoral districts at least 108 days prior to election day.

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Section 12. Creation of Election Precincts

Elections precincts will be created to hold the elections and count the ballots cast by voters in elections of State Duma deputies.

Election precincts will be created by the head of the local administration by agreement with the corresponding district electoral commission at least 60 days prior to election day and with consideration for local and other conditions for the maximum convenience of voters.

Election precincts will be created with consideration for the following requirements:

no more than 3,000 voters in each election precinct;

the observance of territorial-administrative boundaries within the territory of a Russian Federation member;

the inadmissibility of election precincts with boundaries extending beyond the boundaries of electoral districts.

In sanatoriums, clinics, rest homes, hospitals, other permanent therapeutic and preventive care facilities, and other temporary residences of voters, in nearly inaccessible and remote regions, on ships at sea, and in polar stations, election precincts may be created within the time period stipulated in the second paragraph of this section, or no later than five days prior to election day in exceptional cases. These precincts will be part of the electoral districts where they are located or where the ship is registered.

Servicemen will vote in election precincts for the general public. In exceptional cases, election precincts may be created in military units located in isolated regions at a considerable distance from populated communities. In these cases the election precincts will be created by the commanders of the military units by a decision of the appropriate district electoral commission. All members of electoral commissions, observers, candidates, and their authorized representatives with the appropriate identification will be assured access to the polling place.

Election precincts for citizens of the Russian Federation residing in a foreign state will be created by the heads of diplomatic agencies or consular institutions of the Russian Federation within the territory of the host country.

Questions concerning the jurisdiction of a single-seat electoral district over election precincts created outside the territory of the Russian Federation will be settled in accordance with the third paragraph of Section 11 of this Federal Law. The number of voters in the district with jurisdiction over election precincts created outside the territory of the Russian Federation must be lower than the standard level of representation. The number of voters in election precincts created outside the territory of the Russian Federation must not exceed 10 percent of the number of voters living within the territory of the single-seat electoral district with jurisdiction over these election precincts.

Lists of election precincts, indicating their boundaries and the addresses and telephone numbers of precinct electoral commissions, will be published in the local press at least 40 days prior to election day.

CHAPTER III. LISTS OF VOTERS

Section 13. Lists of Voters and Their Compilation Procedures

The list of voters will be compiled by the precinct electoral commission on the basis of data submitted in the required format by the head of the local administration. Periodic corrections of the list of registered voters as of 1 January and 1 July each year will be made by the head of the local administration. The head of the local administration will send data on voters to the electoral commission at least 40 days prior to election day.

The list of voters will be compiled in alphabetical order or some other order (by populated communities and the street addresses of voters). The list will indicate the last name, first name, and patronymic, date of birth (including the day and month for 18-year-olds), and home address of the voter.

The list of voters for the servicemen of a military unit, the members of their families, and other voters living in the region where the military unit is located will be compiled on the basis of data submitted by the commander of the military unit by the date stipulated in the first paragraph of this section.

Servicemen living outside a military unit will be included on the list of voters for their place of residence on the same basis as the general public.

Lists of voters who will be in sanatoriums, clinics, rest homes, hospitals, other permanent therapeutic and preventive care facilities, and other places where voters will be located temporarily on election day will be compiled on the basis of data submitted by the administrators of these institutions.

The list of voters for an election precinct created either on a ship at sea on election day or in a polar station will be compiled on the basis of data submitted by the captain of the ship or the administrator of the polar station.

The list of voters for an election precinct created outside the territory of the Russian Federation will be compiled

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on the basis of data submitted either by the head of the corresponding diplomatic agency or consular institution of the Russian Federation or by the commander of the military unit stationed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

The list of voters will be compiled in two copies in the format approved by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and will be signed by the chairman of the precinct electoral commission and its secretary. One copy of the list of voters will be kept by the precinct electoral commission, and the second copy will be sent to the appropriate territorial electoral commission at least 16 days prior to election day.

Section 14. Procedure for Including Citizens on Lists of Voters

Lists of voters will include all citizens of the Russian Federation with active voting rights in accordance with Section 3 of this Federal Law.

The grounds for the inclusion of a citizen on the list of voters of a specific election precinct will be the fact of his residence within the territory of this election precinct, established in accordance with the federal law granting the citizen of the Russian Federation the freedom to choose a place of temporary or permanent residence and to move from one place to another within the territory of the Russian Federation.

A voter may be included on the list of voters for only one election precinct.

Voters in sanatoriums, clinics, rest homes, hospitals, other permanent therapeutic and preventive care facilities, and other temporary locations on election day will be included on the lists of voters for these locations.

Undergraduates and post-graduate students who attend daytime classes and live in student housing will be including on the list of voters for the location of the dormitory.

The list of voters for an election precinct established outside the territory of the Russian Federation will include citizens of the Russian Federation living outside the territory of the Russian Federation or working on long-term overseas assignments if they can produce the foreign travel passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation.

Citizens of the Russian Federation who are living in foreign states on private invitations or are traveling in an official capacity, on business, or for pleasure will also be included on lists of voters upon their submission of a request to the precinct electoral commission and their presentation of the foreign travel passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation.

Voters who move to the territory of the election precinct after the list of voters has been made available to the public, and voters who were not included on the list of voters for some other reason, will also be included on the list by the precinct electoral commission on the basis of documents attesting to their identity and confirming their residence within the territory of this election precinct.

Section 15. Public Display of Lists of Voters

Lists of voters will be put on public display at least 30 days prior to election day. Each citizen will have the right to inform the precinct electoral commission of the failure to include his name on the list of voters or to challenge any error or inconsistency in the list of voters.

The precinct electoral commission must verify the complaint (or report) and correct the error or inconsistency or give the petitioner a written response within 24 hours, stating the reasons for the refusal of his request. The decision of the precinct electoral commission may be appealed to a superior electoral commission or to a court, which must investigate the complaint (or report) within three days, or as quickly as possible during the three days prior to election day and on election day. If the decision is in favor of the petitioner, the precinct electoral commission will correct the list of voters as soon as possible.

No changes may be made in the list of voters after the tallying of the votes has begun.

CHAPTER IV. ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

Section 16. Network of Electoral Commissions

The preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and the elections themselves will be conducted by:

the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation;

the electoral commissions of members of the Russian Federation;

district electoral commissions;

territorial (regional, municipal, and other) electoral commissions;

precinct electoral commissions.

Section 17. Central Electoral Commission of Russian Federation

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, formed in accordance with the Federal Law "On

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the Fundamental Guarantees of the Voting Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation," will supervise the activities of the electoral commissions making the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and holding the elections.

Election associations and election blocs with a federal list of candidates registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to appoint one member of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation with a voice but no vote.

Section 18. Procedure for Forming Electoral Commission of Russian Federation Member

In accordance with the Federal Law "On the Fundamental Guarantees of the Voting Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation," the electoral commissions of a member of the Russian Federation will be formed by legislative (or representative) and executive government agencies of the Russian Federation member with consideration for the suggestions of public associations, elected bodies of local self-government, and assemblies of voters by place of employment, service, education, and residence.

The electoral commission of a member of the Russian Federation will consist of 10-14 members. At least half of the members of the electoral commission will be appointed by a legislative (or representative) agency of the government of the Russian Federation member.

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the electoral commission of a Russian Federation member will be elected by secret ballot at the first meeting of the commission from among the commission members and should have a law degree.

The electoral commission of a member of the Russian Federation will be formed within 30 days after the enactment of this Federal Law.

Election associations and election blocs with a federal list of candidates registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to appoint one member each, with a voice but no vote, to each electoral commission of a Russian Federation member.

Section 19. Procedure for Forming District Electoral Commission

A district electoral commission will be created in each single-seat electoral district.

The district electoral commission will be formed by legislative (or representative) and executive government agencies of the Russian Federation member at least 92 days prior to election day and will have 8-14 members. Half of the members of the district electoral commission will be appointed by the legislative (or representative) government agency of the Russian Federation member, and the other half will be appointed by an executive government agency of the Russian Federation member.

When candidates are being chosen to serve as members of the district electoral commission, the legislative (or representative) and executive government agencies of the Russian Federation member will consider the proposals of elected bodies of local self-government, public associations, and assemblies of voters by place of employment, service, education, and residence.

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the district electoral commission will be elected by secret ballot at the first meeting of the commission from among the members of the district electoral commission. The chairman of the district electoral commission should have a law degree.

If the legislative (or representative) and executive government agencies of the Russian Federation member fail to appoint members to the district electoral commission within the time period specified in the second paragraph of this section, the district electoral commission will be created by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Election associations and election blocs with a federal ticket registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to appoint one member each, with a voice but no vote, to each district electoral commission. Candidates for deputy will be entitled to appoint one member of the electoral commission with a voice but no vote to the district electoral commission in the single-seat electoral district where this candidate is registered.

If only one single-seat electoral district has been created within the territory of a Russian Federation member, a district electoral commission does not necessarily have to be created. In this case the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation may assign the duties of the district electoral commission to the electoral commission of the Russian Federation member concerned.

Section 20. Procedure for Forming Territorial (Regional, Municipal, or Other) Electoral Commission

The territorial (regional, municipal, or other) electoral commission will be formed at least 60 days before election day and will have 5-9 members. The members of the territorial electoral commission will be appointed

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by an elected body of local self-government. The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the territorial electoral commission will be elected by secret ballot at its first meeting from among the members of the territorial electoral commission. By a decision of the district electoral commission, approved by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, several territorial electoral commissions may be formed within a single territorial-administrative unit with a high number of voters.

When candidates for membership in the territorial electoral commission are being judged, the elected body of local self-government will consider the proposals of public associations and assemblies of voters by place of employment, service, education, and residence.

If the elected body of local self-government has not appointed the members of the territorial electoral commission before the date specified in the first paragraph of this section, or if there is no elected body of local self-government in the territory, the territorial electoral commission will be formed by the district electoral commission.

Election associations and election blocs with a federal ticket registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to appoint one member each, with a voice but no vote, to each territorial electoral commission. Candidates for deputy will be entitled to appoint one member with a voice but no vote to each territorial electoral commission in the single-seat electoral district where the candidate is registered.

Section 21. Procedure for Forming Precinct Electoral Commission

The precinct electoral commission will be formed by an elected body of local self-government at least 44 days before election day and will have 5-10 members.

When candidates for membership in the precinct electoral commission are being judged, the elected body of local self-government will consider the proposals of public associations and assemblies of voters by place of employment, service, education, and residence. The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the precinct electoral commission will be elected by secret ballot at its first meeting from among the members of the precinct electoral commission.

If the elected body of local self-government has not appointed the members of the precinct electoral commission by the date specified in the first paragraph of this section, or if there is no elected body of local self-government in the territory, the precinct electoral commission will be formed by the corresponding territorial or district electoral commission.

The members of the precinct electoral commission in an election precinct created in a polar station or on a ship at sea will be appointed, respectively, by the administrator of the polar station or the captain of the ship before the date specified in the first paragraph of this section, or at least five days before election day in exceptional cases.

The members of a precinct electoral commission in an election precinct created outside the territory of the Russian Federation will be appointed by the head of the corresponding diplomatic agency or consular institution of the Russian Federation or the commander of the military unit stationed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

Election associations and election blocs with a federal ticket registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to appoint one commission member each with a voice but not vote to each precinct electoral commission. The candidate for deputy will be entitled to appoint one electoral commission member with a voice but no vote to each precinct electoral commission in the single-seat electoral district where this candidate is registered. On election day each candidate for deputy, each election association, and each election bloc will be entitled to appoint one observer to the corresponding precinct electoral commission, and this observer will have the right to remain in the polling place from the time the first ballot is cast to the time when the final documents on balloting results have been compiled and will be entitled to obtain certified copies of these documents.

Section 22. Status of Electoral Commission Member

The voting member of the electoral commission must attend all meetings of the commission.

Candidates for deputy, their authorized representatives, the spouses and close relatives of candidates, and individuals directly subordinate to them may not be members of electoral commissions.

Voting members of electoral commissions and electoral commission members with a voice but no vote will:

be notified in advance of meetings of the corresponding electoral commission;

be entitled to speak at meetings of the electoral commission, submit proposals on matters under the jurisdiction of the corresponding electoral commission, and demand a vote on the proposals;

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be entitled to ask others at the meeting of the electoral commission questions about matters on the agenda and receive substantive answers;

be entitled to read any documents and materials of the corresponding electoral commission and subordinate electoral commissions and obtain certified copies of these documents.

During the passage of an electoral commission resolution, electoral commission members with a voice but no vote will not vote on these decisions.

The voting member of the electoral commission may be released from his duties as an electoral commission member prior to the end of his term by a decision of the appointing agency in the following cases:

the submission of a written request by the electoral commission member for the termination of his powers;

the electoral commission member's loss of Russian Federation citizenship;

the enactment of a judgment of conviction against the electoral commission member;

the enactment of a judicial ruling declaring the electoral commission member incompetent, disabled, missing, or dead.

The voting electoral commission member who has been released from his main job during the period of preparations for elections and the elections themselves will be paid a salary from the funds allocated for the elections. During his term in office, he may not be dismissed from his job by the administration (or his employer) or transferred to another job without his consent.

During the election period the voting electoral commission member may not be charged with a crime without the consent of the corresponding procurator or be subject to administrative penalties by court order. The powers of members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the electoral commissions of Russian Federation members, and district electoral commissions with a voice but no vote in connection with preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and with the elections themselves will be terminated at the time of the registration of candidates for deputy seats in the next State Duma if the election associations, election blocs, or candidates appointing them have won deputy seats. The powers of other members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the electoral commissions of Russian Federation members, and district electoral commissions with a voice but no vote will be terminated 30 days after the publication of the general election results. The powers of members of territorial and precinct electoral commissions with a voice but no vote will be terminated at the end of the term of these electoral commissions.

Section 23. Powers of Central Electoral Commission of Russian Federation

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will do the following during the preparations for elections and during the elections themselves within the confines of the powers granted to it by federal laws:

supervise the activities of electoral commissions for elections of State Duma deputies;

oversee the observance of laws during the election preparations and proceedings and secure the uniform application of this Federal Law;

propose the assignment of voters, including servicemen outside the territory of the Russian Federation, to single-seat electoral districts within the territory of the Russian Federation on the basis of data submitted by the appropriate ministries and departments of the Russian Federation;

issue instructions and other legislative instruments on the application of this Federal Law, which will be binding for all electoral commissions responsible for the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and the elections themselves;

register election blocs;

register the federal tickets and lists of candidates nominated in single-seat electoral districts by election associations and election blocs;

register the authorized representatives of election associations and election blocs;

secure the observance of equal legal conditions for the campaign activities of all election associations and election blocs with registered federal tickets and for all candidates registered in single-seat electoral districts;

issue the appropriate identification to candidates registered in the federal electoral district and the authorized representatives of election associations and election blocs;

receive reports from ministries and departments, other agencies of the executive branch of government, and agencies of local self-government on matters connected with election preparations and proceedings;

establish the format of the election ballot, the list of voters, and other election documents;

approve the Russian-language text of the election ballot for the federal electoral district;

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approve the sample stamps of electoral commissions and establish the delivery and storage procedures for election documents;

distribute funds allocated from the federal budget to finance the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and the elections themselves and to cover the costs of electoral commissions during their term in office and oversee the use of these funds for the designated purpose;

oversee the provision of electoral commissions with working premises, vehicles, and communication systems and make decisions on other material and technical supplies for elections;

investigate complaints (or reports) with regard to the decisions and actions of subordinate electoral commissions and issue decisions on the complaints (or reports), stating the reasons for the decisions;

establish the standard procedure for the processing of balloting data and determining the results of elections of State Duma deputies;

determine the individuals elected to serve as State Duma deputies in the federal electoral district and provide them with proof of election;

establish the results of the balloting in elections of State Duma deputies in the Russian Federation as a whole, publish the results in the press, and secure the transfer of documents connected with election preparations and proceedings to the archives;

compile lists of individuals elected to serve as State Duma deputies and deliver these lists and the necessary documents to the State Duma;

organize elections of State Duma deputies to serve in vacated deputy seats and organize repeat elections of State Duma deputies;

exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law and the Federal Law "On the Fundamental Guarantees of the Voting Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation."

The decisions the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation makes within the confines of its authority will be binding for all federal and local government agencies, public associations, and state enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and also for their officials.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will have its own official press organ.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be a legal entity and a standing body.

Section 24. Powers of Electoral Commission of Russian Federation Member

The electoral commission of a Russian Federation member will do the following:

coordinate the activities of electoral commissions within the territory of the member of the Russian Federation;

secure the interaction of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation with government agencies of the member of the Russian Federation;

oversee the legality of elections within the territory of the member of the Russian Federation;

secure the printing of election ballots for the federal electoral district and single-seat electoral districts created within the territory of the member of the Russian Federation and supply district electoral commissions with the ballots;

distribute financial resources allocated for election preparations and proceedings to district electoral commissions and oversee the proper use of these funds within the territory of the member of the Russian Federation;

establish the standard numerical sequence of election precincts within the territory of the member of the Russian Federation;

investigate complaints (or reports) with regard to the decisions and actions of other electoral commissions within the territory of the member of the Russian Federation and issue decisions on them, stating the reasons for the decisions;

exercise other powers at the request of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

The term of office of the electoral commission of a member of the Russian Federation will be four years.

The electoral commission of a member of the Russian Federation will be a legal entity and a standing body.

Section 25. Powers of District Electoral Commission

The district electoral commission will do the following:

oversee the implementation of this Federal Law within the territory of the electoral district;

coordinate the activities of territorial and precinct electoral commissions, investigate complaints (or reports) regarding the decisions and actions of these commissions, and issue decisions on the complaints (or reports), stating the reasons for the decisions;

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register candidates for deputy and their authorized representatives and issue the proper identification to them;

secure the observance of equal legal conditions for the campaign activities of all candidates for deputy;

manage the funds allocated for election preparations and proceedings in the electoral district, distribute part of the funds to territorial electoral commissions, and oversee the use of these funds for their designated purpose within the territory of the electoral district;

approve the text of the ballot for the single-seat electoral district;

supply territorial electoral commissions with ballots for the federal and single-seat electoral districts;

determine and publish the results of balloting and the election results for the single-seat electoral district and forward the data on balloting results for the federal electoral district within the corresponding territory to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation;

oversee the provision of territorial and precinct electoral commissions with working premises, vehicles, and communication systems and make decisions on other material and technical supplies for elections;

organize elections of State Duma deputies for vacated deputy seats and organize repeat elections of State Duma deputies;

exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law.

District electoral commissions will remain active until the expiration of the term of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Section 26. Powers of Territorial (Regional, Municipal, or Other) Electoral Commission

The territorial (regional, municipal, or other) electoral commission will do the following:

oversee the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and the elections themselves within the corresponding territory and notify the public of the addresses and telephone numbers of precinct electoral commissions;

coordinate the activities of precinct electoral commissions within the corresponding territory, investigate complaints (or reports) regarding the decisions and actions of these electoral commissions, and issue decisions on the complaints (or reports), stating the reasons for the decisions;

manage the funds allocated for election preparations and proceedings and distribute the funds to precinct electoral commissions;

secure the observance of equal legal conditions for the campaign activities of all candidates, election associations, and election blocs in conjunction with the district electoral commission within the correspond territory;

organize the delivery of election ballots and other documents to precinct electoral commissions;

offer organizational and technical assistance to precinct electoral commissions on election day in the election precincts;

organize advance balloting on the premises of the territorial electoral commission;

establish the balloting results in the corresponding territory, report them to the news media, and send official records of the balloting results to the district electoral commission;

secure the transfer of documents connected with election preparations and proceedings to the archives or to a superior electoral commission;

exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law.

The term of office of the territorial electoral commission will expire after the official publication of the general election results, including the results of elections in the corresponding electoral district.

Section 27. Powers of Precinct Electoral Commission

The precinct electoral commission will do the following:

notify the population of the address and telephone number of the precinct electoral commission, its working hours, the location of the polling place, and the date of the election;

compile the list of voters in the election precinct;

display the list of voters in a public place, investigate reports of errors and inconsistencies in the list of voters, and make decisions on the appropriate changes;

secure the preparation of polling places, ballot boxes, and other equipment;

oversee the observance of rules governing the distribution of campaign materials within the territory of the election precinct;

organize the casting of ballots in the election precinct on election day and the advance balloting;

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count the votes and determine the balloting results for the election precinct;

investigate complaints (or reports) regarding violations of this Federal Law and issue decisions on them, stating the reasons for the decisions;

exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law.

The term of office of the precinct electoral commission will expire after the official publication of the general election results, including the results of balloting in the corresponding electoral district.

Section 28. Glasnost in Activity of Electoral Commissions

The activities of electoral commissions will be conducted publicly and openly.

Candidates for deputy and their authorized representatives, representatives of election associations and election blocs, and representatives of the news media will be entitled to attend meetings of electoral commissions.

Electoral commissions will inform citizens of the results of the registration of candidates, their biographical data, and the balloting results for each candidate, election association, and election bloc.

The decisions of electoral commissions will be published in the press and reported to other news media.

Section 29. Organization of Activities of Electoral Commissions

The activities of electoral commissions will be conducted on a collective basis. The meeting of the electoral commission will be legally qualified if it is attended by the majority of voting commission members. A meeting of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be legally qualified if it is attended by at least two-thirds of the voting members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

During the passage of resolutions by electoral commissions with an even number of members, the chairman of the electoral commission will cast the deciding vote if the number of votes in favor of the decision is equal to the number of votes opposed.

Decisions made by electoral commissions within the confines of their authority will be binding for federal and local government agencies and for subordinate electoral commissions.

The decisions of electoral commissions on the election of a chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the electoral commission, on the registration of candidates, on the revocation of the registration of candidates, on the financing of election preparations and proceedings, on the determination of balloting results, and on the decision to set aside elections or declare them invalid will be made at meetings of the electoral commissions by the majority of voting commission members. Electoral commission decisions on other matters will be made by a majority of the voting commission members present at the meeting.

The decision of an electoral commission will be signed by the chairman and secretary of the electoral commission.

Members of the electoral commission who do not agree with the decision of the electoral commission will be entitled to compose a written dissenting opinion, which will then be reported by the chairman of the electoral commission to a superior electoral commission within three days, or as quickly as possible during the three days prior to election day and on election day.

An electoral commission decision contrary to federal law or a decision exceeding the authority of an electoral commission may be rescinded by a superior electoral commission or a court.

Electoral commission meetings will be convened and conducted by the chairman, or, at his request, by the deputy chairman of the electoral commission. Meetings will also be held at the request of at least one-third of the voting members of the electoral commission.

When electoral commissions meet to investigate complaints (or reports), representatives of the parties concerned will be entitled to attend the meetings.

The chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of a standing electoral commission may be employed as staff members of the electoral commission, and so may other voting members by a decision of the electoral commission. Electoral commission members with voting rights will be paid salaries from the budget funds allocated to the electoral commission according to the procedure and in the amounts stipulated by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

A standing electoral commission will have its own organizational system, structure, and staff, which will be established by the electoral commission within the confines of allocated budget funds. Other electoral commissions may establish a temporary organizational system, structure, and staff for the period of election preparations and proceedings, and these will be maintained by the corresponding electoral commissions within the limits of allocated budget funds.

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Section 30. Assistance in Activities of Electoral Commissions

Federal and local government agencies, public associations, enterprises, institutions, and organizations, and their officials must offer electoral commissions assistance in the exercise of their powers, including the provision of the commissions with the necessary premises, vehicles, communication systems, and technical equipment, and also with informational reports and other materials and must respond to the requests of electoral commissions within five days, or as quickly as possible during the five days prior to election day and on election day.

Section 31. Appeals of Decisions and Actions of Electoral Commissions

The decisions and actions (or failure to take action) of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and its officials may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

The decisions and actions (or failure to take action) of electoral commissions and their officials may be appealed to a superior electoral commission or a court of law. The petitioning of a court will not necessarily be preceded by a preliminary appeal to a superior electoral commission.

Complaints (or reports) filed in a court of law will be investigated by the court within the period of time specified in this Federal Law.

Decisions on complaints (or reports) filed in a superior electoral commission during the election period will be made within five days after the receipt of the complaint (or report) by the electoral commission, or as quickly as possible during the five days prior to election day and on election day. If the facts related in the complaints (or reports) require additional investigation, decisions will be made on them within 10 days.

The superior electoral commission will be entitled to make its own decision on the substance of the complaint (or report), thereby rescinding the decision of the subordinate commission.

Courts and agencies of the procuracy must organize their work (including weekend work) in such a way as to secure the timely deliberation of complaints (or reports).

CHAPTER V. ELECTION ASSOCIATIONS

Section 32. Definition of Election Associations

The election association is an all-Russian public association established according to the procedure specified by federal laws, with a charter envisaging participation in elections to government agencies by means of the nomination of candidates, and registered with the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice at least six months prior to the announcement of the date of scheduled elections.

The rights of the election association may also be exercised by election blocs created for elections of State Duma deputies.

Section 33. Election Blocs

Election blocs must be formed by at least two public associations meeting the requirements specified in the first paragraph of Section 32 of this Federal Law for election associations.

After a public association has joined an election bloc, it may not act as an independent election association or join another election bloc during the election period.

The decision to join an election bloc will be made at a congress (or conference) of the public association.

Election blocs will be registered by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The registration must be completed within five days after the records of congresses (or conferences) of public associations, with the decisions to join the election bloc and the joint decision of the public associations, signed by authorized representatives of these public associations, to create an election bloc, have been submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Section 34. Authorized Representatives of Election Association and Election Bloc

The election association and election bloc will appoint representatives authorized in accordance with this Federal Law to represent them in all matters connected with the participation of the election association or election bloc in elections of State Duma deputies, including financial matters.

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Section 35. Participation by Election Associations and Election Blocs in Elections of State Duma Deputies

Election associations and election blocs will participate in elections of State Duma deputies on equal terms according to the procedure specified in this Federal Law.

CHAPTER VI. NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY

Section 36. Nomination of Candidates for Deputy by Election Association or Election Bloc in Single-Seat Electoral Districts

Candidates for deputy in single-seat electoral districts will be nominated at a congress (or conference) of the election association, specifying the electoral district in which each candidate will run for office. The election association or election bloc will be entitled to nominate no more than one candidate in a single electoral district.

The decision to nominate candidates will be made by secret ballot.

The election association and election bloc will be entitled to nominate individuals who are not members of their constituent public associations.

Section 37. Nomination of Candidates on Federal Ticket of Election Association and Election Bloc

The federal ticket of candidates for State Duma deputy to run for office in elections in the federal electoral district will be nominated by the election association at a congress (or conference) of the election association.

The decision to nominate a federal list of candidates will be made by secret ballot.

The election association and election bloc will be entitled to nominate individuals who are not members of their constituent public associations to a federal ticket.

The names on the federal ticket and the order in which they are listed on the ticket will be decided by the election association or election bloc. The election association or election bloc deciding the order in which candidates will be listed on the ticket will break the ticket down either completely or partially into regional groups of candidates (by Russian Federation members or groups of Russian Federation members), with no more than 12 names in the portion of the ticket listing candidates not included in any regional group. They must specify which Russian Federation members or groups of Russian Federation members correspond to each of the listed regional groups of candidates. A candidate may not be included in two or more such groups and may not be listed more than once on the federal ticket. After the federal list of candidates has been submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the names on the ticket and the order in which they are listed may not be changed, with the exception of changes necessitated by the withdrawal of candidates from the race.

The federal ticket may include candidates for State Duma deputy who are nominated by the same election association or election bloc in single-seat electoral districts.

The total number of candidates nominated by the election association or election bloc on the federal ticket may not exceed 270.

Section 38. Submission of Lists of Candidates and Documents of Election Associations and Election Blocs to Central Electoral Commission of Russian Federation

The federal list of candidates and the list of candidates nominated by the election association and election bloc in single-seat electoral districts will be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation by an authorized representative of the election association or election bloc. The lists will indicate the last name, first name, patronymic, date of birth, place of employment, professional title (or occupation), and place of residence of each candidate. A copy of the public association's registration certificate from the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice, its registered charter, the records of the congress (or conference) of the election association where candidates were nominated, and the legally recorded credentials of the authorized representative of the association will be submitted at the same time as the lists.

Authorized representatives of the election bloc will submit the records of congresses (or conferences) of public associations with the decisions to join the election bloc and the joint decision of these public associations to create an election bloc, signed by authorized representatives of these public associations, to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation at the same time as the lists of candidates.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will consider all of these documents within three days and issue certified copies of the lists of candidates or notification of the refusal to issue these copies, stating the reasons for this refusal, to the authorized representative of the election association or election bloc.

The refusal to accept the documents and to issue copies of the lists of candidates may be appealed to the

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Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, which must investigate the complaint within three days.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will publish the lists of candidates submitted to it in the news media and in its own official press organ.

Section 39. Collection of Signatures in Support of Candidates Nominated by Election Association or Election Bloc

The election association or election bloc nominating candidates in single-seat electoral districts will collect the signatures of voters in the corresponding single-seat electoral districts in support of each candidate in numbers equivalent to at least 1 percent of the total number of voters in these electoral districts. The election association or election bloc nominating candidates on a federal ticket must collect at least 200,000 signatures of voters in support of this ticket, and no more than 7 percent of the required number of signatures may be collected within the territory of a single Russian Federation member.

The signatures collected in support of a candidate nominated by an election association or election bloc in a single-seat electoral district and registered by the district electoral commission will be included by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in the number of signatures in support of the candidates on the federal ticket of this election association or election bloc.

The election association or election bloc will be entitled to begin collecting signatures on the day the certified copies of lists of candidates are issued by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The election association or election bloc may not collect signatures until it has received certified copies of lists of candidates.

The signatures of voters may be collected in places of employment (including labor collectives), service, education, and residence, at campaign functions, and in other locations where campaigning and the collection of signatures are not prohibited by federal law. Any form of coercion or bribery of voters by the individual collecting the signatures will not be allowed.

The petitions will be printed in the format specified in addenda 1 and 2 to this Federal Law [not reproduced].

When signatures are being collected in support of the federal list of candidates, each petition will indicate the full name, date of birth, place of employment, professional title (or occupation), and place of residence of the first three names on the federal part of the list, and also the first three names on the corresponding regional part of the list if the ticket has been broken down into regional groups of candidates. At the request of the voter, the individual collecting signatures in support of the federal ticket must show him the federal list of candidates certified by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The title of the Russian Federation member where the signatures were collected must be listed on each petition.

If the signatures are being collected in support of a candidate nominated by an election association or election bloc in a single-seat electoral district, the name of the election association nominating the candidate and the candidate's affiliation with the corresponding election association must be indicated on the petition in addition to the other data.

Voters will be entitled to sign petitions in support of the candidates (or tickets) of various election associations, but they may not sign more than one petition in support of a single candidate (or ticket). The voter will indicate his full name, date of birth (including the day and month in the case of 18-year-olds), home address, series and number of passport or other personal identification, and signature date.

The petition will be endorsed by the individual collecting the signatures and will list his full name, his home address, and the series and number of his passport or other personal identification, and by an authorized representative of the election association or election bloc nominating the candidate.

In the case of early elections of State Duma deputies, the number of signatures to be collected by the election association or election bloc nominating the candidates on a federal ticket in accordance with the second paragraph of this section will be reduced by half.

Section 40. Nomination of Candidate Directly by Voters

The right to run for office in elections of State Duma deputies in a single-seat electoral district may be exercised by any citizen of the Russian Federation who has reached the age of 21 on election day and has active voting rights.

Voters may also exercise the right to nominate a candidate in a single-seat electoral district at assemblies in their place of employment, service, education, or residence within the territory of this electoral district.

The initiators of the collection of signatures in support of a nominated candidate in a single-seat electoral district will notify the corresponding district electoral commission of their initiative in writing. The notice should indicate the full name, date of birth, place

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of employment, professional title (or occupation), and place of residence of the candidate.

Section 41. Collection of Signatures in Support of Candidate Nominated Directly by Voters

The collection of signatures in support of a candidate nominated directly by voters will begin on the date of the official publication of the list of single-seat electoral districts by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

The signatures of at least 1 percent of the voters in the given electoral district must be collected in support of a nominated candidate. In the event of early elections, the required number of signatures will be reduced by half.

Signatures may be collected only from voters in the electoral district where the candidate has been nominated. Signatures will be collected at places of employment (including labor collectives), service, education, and residence. All forms of coercion and the bribery of voters by the individual collecting the signatures will be impermissible.

The petitions will be printed in the format specified in Addendum 3 to this Federal Law [not reproduced]. Each petition will indicate the full name, date of birth, place of employment, professional title (or occupation), and home address of the candidate and the name of the electoral district in which he has been nominated.

When the voter signs the petition, he will also indicate his full name, date of birth (including the day and month in the case of 18-year-olds), home address, series and number of passport or other personal identification, and signature date.

The petition will be endorsed by the individual collecting the signatures and will list his full name, his home address, and the series and number of his passport or other personal identification, and by the candidate for deputy.

Section 42. Registration of Candidates for Deputy

For the registration of the candidates on federal tickets, authorized representatives of election associations and election blocs will submit petitions in support of the federal ticket and data on each candidate on the federal ticket, indicating his full name, date of birth, place of employment, professional title (or occupation), and place of residence, to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation at least 55 days prior to election day. The candidates' declarations of consent to run for office on the federal ticket of the election association or election bloc will be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation at the same time.

Within 10 day after the receipt of the documents, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will verify the correspondence of the nomination of the candidates on the federal ticket to the requirements of this Federal Law and will make the decision to register the federal list of candidates or to refuse to register the candidates, stating the reasons for the refusal.

For the registration of a candidate nominated directly by the voters in a single-seat electoral district or a candidate nominated by an election association or election bloc in a single-seat electoral district, the candidate or the authorized representative of the election association or election bloc will submit petitions with voters' signatures in support of the candidate to the district electoral commission at least 55 days prior to election day. Data on the candidate, including his full name, date of birth, place of employment, professional title (or occupation), and home address, the candidate's declaration of consent to run for office in this electoral district, and the decision of the election association or election bloc to nominate this candidate in this electoral district will be submitted to the district electoral commission at the same time.

Petitions will be submitted to electoral commissions in collated and numbered form. Petitions in support of a federal ticket must be collated by the Russian Federation members where the signatures of voters were collected. When the electoral commissions receive the petitions, they will endorse each petition with the stamp of the electoral commission and then issue written confirmation of the receipt of the petitions to the authorized representative or candidate, stating the date and time of receipt.

Within five days after the receipt of the documents the district electoral commission will verify the correspondence of the nomination of the candidate to the requirements of this Federal Law and make the decision to register the candidate or refuse to register him, stating the reasons for the refusal.

Authorized representatives of the corresponding election associations and election blocs and the candidates nominated in single-seat electoral districts will be entitled to be present when electoral commissions check the accuracy of petitions and other documents.

If there are doubts about the accuracy of information on the petitions or the authenticity of voters' signatures, the district electoral commission will arrange for the appropriate substantiation of the petitions.

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The same individual may not be registered on more than one federal ticket or on more than one list of candidates nominated by an election association or election bloc for single-seat electoral districts, and the same individual may not be registered in more than one single-seat electoral district.

A candidate registered in a single-seat electoral district as a candidate nominated directly by the voters may not be simultaneously registered as the candidate of an election association or election bloc in the same district.

The same individual may be registered as a candidate on the federal ticket and in one single-seat electoral district.

The decision of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation to register a federal ticket or refuse to register it may be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, and the decision of a district electoral commission to register a candidate or refuse to register him may be appealed to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation or the Supreme Court of the republic belonging to the Russian Federation, a kray court, an oblast court, the municipal court in a city of federal jurisdiction, the court of the autonomous oblast, or the court of the autonomous okrug. The complaint must be investigated within three days.

Each registered candidate will be issued a certificate of registration, indicating the date and time of registration. Registered lists of candidates and data on registered candidates will be made available to the news media within 48 hours after registration. The district electoral commission will display information about the registered candidates, with all of the data listed in the third paragraph of Section 40 of this Federal Law, on the premises of the electoral commission.

If only one candidate or no candidate is registered in a single-seat electoral district within the time period specified in this section, or if no federal ticket or only one federal ticket is registered for the federal electoral district, the elections for this district will be postponed for 60 days by a decision of the appropriate electoral commission to provide time for the nomination of additional candidates or federal tickets and the completion of subsequent election activities.

If there are fewer than two candidates in a single-seat electoral district on election day, the elections in this electoral district will be postponed for 100 days by a decision of the appropriate district electoral commission to provide time for additional nominations and the completion of subsequent election activities.

CHAPTER VII. STATUS OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY

Section 43. Equality of Candidate for Deputy

All registered candidates for deputy will have equal rights and equal obligations.

Section 44. Rights and Obligations of Candidate for Deputy

After registration the candidate for deputy may not use the advantages of his office in the interest of election.

After registration the candidate for deputy will be released from his job, military service, and military reserve duty at his request from the date of registration to the date of the official publication of the general election results. During this period the appropriate electoral commission will use the funds allocated for election preparations and proceedings to pay the candidates financial compensation in an amount not exceeding 10 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections.

The candidate for deputy may not be dismissed from his job by the administration (or by his employer), be transferred to another job or position without his consent, including jobs in other locations, be required to make business trips, or be called up for military service and military reserve duty between the date of his registration and the date of the official publication of the general election results. The period of election participation by the candidate for deputy will be included in his term of service in the specialty in which he was employed prior to the date of his registration.

The candidate for deputy nominated in a single-seat electoral district will be entitled to use any form of public transport, with the exception of taxis and charters, without charge within the territory of the corresponding electoral district from the day of registration to the day of the official publication of the general election results. In cities with several electoral districts, the candidate may use municipal public transport, with the exception of taxis and charters, without charge throughout the city.

If the candidate has a permanent residence outside the boundaries of the single-seat electoral district in which he is running for office, the candidate will be entitled to three round trips by rail, water, or motor transport, with the exception of taxis and charters, or one round trip by air to the electoral district during this period without charge. The cost of these trips will be covered by the resources of the corresponding district electoral commission.

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A candidate for deputy on a registered federal ticket will be entitled to make one trip (round trip) within the territory of the Russian Federation on any type of inter-urban transport, with the exception of taxis and charters. Besides this, a candidate included in a regional group of candidates (if the corresponding federal ticket has been broken down into such groups) will be entitled to use any form of public transport, with the exception of taxis and charters, within the territory of the corresponding Russian Federation member without charge. The cost of these trips will be covered by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation with the funds allocated for election preparations and proceedings.

The candidate will be entitled to withdraw from the race no later than three days prior to election day. An election association or election bloc may recall any registered candidate no later than three days prior to election day by a decision of an authorized body, with the exception of candidates for whom the signatures of voters were collected in single-seat electoral districts. If the reasons for a candidate's withdrawal are not compelling, the corresponding electoral commission may charge the candidate or the election association or election bloc a corresponding portion of its expenditures on the elections, including funds allocated by the electoral commission to the candidate or the election association or election bloc for campaign functions.

The candidate for deputy registered in a single-seat electoral district may have up to 10 authorized representatives, who will be registered by the same electoral commission. An election association or election bloc with a registered federal ticket may appoint up to 500 authorized representatives, who will be registered by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. These representatives will receive identification materials from the appropriate electoral commission and will conduct campaign functions and other activities in support of their candidates. An administration (or employer) must grant authorized representatives a leave without pay at their request for the period indicated in the second paragraph of this section. Candidates, election associations, and election blocs with appointed authorized representatives will be entitled to recall them at any time after notifying the appropriate electoral commission, which will then invalidate the identification materials issued to these authorized representatives.

After registration the candidate for deputy may not be charged with a crime, arrested, or subjected to administrative penalties by court order without the consent of the Procurator-General of the Russian Federation. If the Procurator-General grants this consent, he will notify the electoral commission registering the candidate of this action as soon as possible.

CHAPTER VIII. ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Section 45. Election Campaigns and Their Duration

Citizens of the Russian Federation, candidates for State Duma deputy, election associations and election blocs will be entitled to conduct election campaigns without any interference.

Campaign activity and the distribution of any campaign materials by the following will be prohibited:

federal government agencies, government agencies of members of the Russian Federation, local government agencies, and their officials during the performance of their official duties;

military units and military institutions and organizations;

charitable organizations and religious associations;

voting members of electoral commissions.

The election campaign will begin on the date of the registration of candidates and end at midnight, local time, of the day before election day. Any campaign activity on election day and the day before election day will be prohibited. Printed campaign materials posted earlier outside the premises of electoral commissions may remain on display in their previous locations.

Campaign activity may be conducted:

through the news media;

by organizing public campaign functions (campaign assemblies and meetings with voters, public debates and discussions, rallies, marches, demonstrations, and other campaign gatherings);

by issuing and (or) distributing printed, audio-visual, and other campaign materials.

Campaign activities accompanied by the offer of goods, services (with the exception of informational services), and securities to voters without charge or on preferential terms or the payment of money to voters will be prohibited.

Journalists and officials of the editorial boards of news media may not host television and radio news programs or participate in the coverage of elections by these news media if these individuals are candidates for State Duma deputy or their authorized representatives.

Section 46. Impermissibility of Abuses of Right To Conduct Election Campaigns

The freedom of public information may not be abused during election campaigns. Campaign programs, campaign materials, and statements at meetings and rallies

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and in the news media must not contain appeals for the violent transformation of the bases of the constitutional order and the violation of the integrity of the Russian Federation. Social, racial, ethnic, religious, or linguistic superiority must not be suggested or publicized, and the issuance and distribution of reports and materials arousing social, racial, ethnic, or religious enmity will be prohibited.

Candidates, election associations, election blocs, and their authorized representatives will not be entitled to offer voters money, gifts, or other valuables for anything other than the performance of organizational campaign work (service in election precincts, the collection of signatures, and other work of this kind), sell goods to them on preferential terms, or distribute any goods for free, with the exception of printed materials, including illustrated materials, and lapel pins designed specifically for the election campaign. Candidates, election associations, election blocs, and their authorized representatives will not be entitled to influence voters during the campaign with promises of money, securities, or other valuables.

Electoral commissions will oversee the observance of established campaign procedures. If they hear reports of unlawful statements or the distribution of unlawful campaign materials, they may take measures to stop the unlawful activity and will be entitled to request the appropriate agencies to stop the unlawful activity and petition a court to revoke the registration of the candidate or federal ticket. These petitions will be considered by the court within three days, or as quickly as possible during the three days prior to election day.

Section 47. Campaigning in the Media

Candidates for deputy, election associations, and election blocs will be entitled to air time on the channels and stations of state companies broadcasting television and radio programs within the territory of the corresponding electoral district on equal terms (without charge, with equal amounts of air time, with broadcasts scheduled at equivalent times of the day, and other terms).

Instructions on the procedure for granting air time to candidates, election associations and election blocs on the channels and stations of state television and radio broadcasting companies will be issued by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in conjunction with the government agencies securing the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms in the sphere of public information, with the mandatory consideration of the proposals of candidates, election associations, and election blocs.

Election associations and election blocs with registered federal tickets will be entitled to use the channels and stations of state television and radio broadcasting companies for campaign messages.

Candidates for deputy will be entitled to use the services of regional state television and radio broadcasting companies in their campaigns.

The officials of the editorial boards of periodical publications with state or municipal government agencies, institutions, and organizations among their founders (or co-founders), or of publications financed in full or in part by funds from the corresponding budget (federal budget or budget of Russian Federation member), must secure publication opportunities for the campaign materials of all candidates, elections associations, and election blocs.

The procedure for the publication of campaign materials in the periodicals listed in the fifth paragraph of this section will be established by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in conjunction with the government agencies securing the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms in the sphere of public information.

Campaigning in the media will take the form of public debates, "roundtables," press conferences, interviews, speeches, political advertisements, and other forms not prohibited by law. The election association, election bloc, and candidate for deputy will be entitled to choose the form and nature of campaign publicity.

The interruption of television and radio programs containing campaign messages by advertisements for goods, work, or services will be prohibited.

Reports on the campaign activities of candidates, election associations, and election blocs should constitute a separate segment of television and radio news programs, usually at the beginning of the program, without any commentary. Candidates, election associations, and election blocs will not pay for these news segments.

Journalists, officials of the editorial boards of news media, and officials and creative personnel of state television and radio broadcasting companies may not participate in election coverage in the news media, including television and radio news programs, if these individuals are candidates or the authorized representatives of candidates.

Television and radio programs containing campaign messages will be recorded on audio and video tapes when they are aired, and these tapes will then be kept on file for six months.

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Section 48. Campaigning in Periodicals

Periodical publications established by agencies of the legislative (or representative), executive, and judicial branches of government or by agencies of local self-government exclusively for the publication of their official reports and materials, legislative acts, and other instruments will not be entitled to publish the campaign materials of candidates for deputy, election associations and election blocs.

If one of the founders (or co-founders) of a periodical is a state or municipal agency or state enterprise, institution, or organization or if the periodical is financed partially or completely with funds from the corresponding budget (the federal budget or the budget of a member of the Russian Federation), and this periodical has offered a candidate for deputy, election association, or election bloc publication space may not refuse to give another candidate for deputy, election association, or election bloc (or regional group of an election association) space on the same terms, and it must do this in an upcoming issue.

Section 49. Conditions of Campaign Assemblies and Meetings with Voters

Federal and local government agencies must offer candidates for deputy, election associations, and election blocs assistance in the organization and proceedings of campaign assemblies and meetings of candidates for deputy and their authorized representatives with the voters.

Requests for premises for these assemblies and meetings will be considered by the corresponding federal and local government agencies within five days after their receipt and will be satisfied according to the procedure established by the district electoral commission.

At the request of electoral commissions, premises suitable for public gatherings and categorized as state or municipal property or owned by state enterprises, institutions, and organizations will be offered for use without charge for a period of time defined by the electoral commission for meetings of candidates and their authorized representatives with voters. During this process the electoral commissions must secure equal opportunities for all candidates, election associations, and election blocs.

Buildings and structures on the state list of particularly valuable elements of the cultural heritage of the people of the Russian Federation may not be used for these purposes.

Section 50. Distribution of Printed Campaign Materials

Election associations and candidates for deputy will be entitled to print posters, leaflets, and other campaign materials without any interference.

Printed campaign materials must include information about the organizations and individuals responsible for their issuance.

The distribution of anonymous printed campaign materials will be prohibited.

Printed campaign materials may be displayed in any building and posted on any building, structure, or other object with the consent of the property owner or the owner of the object.

Printed campaign materials may not be posted on monuments or obelisks, on buildings and facilities of special historical, cultural, or architectural value, or in the offices of electoral commissions and in polling places.

The local administration must reserve special locations for the display or posting of printed campaign materials at least 20 days prior to election day. These locations should be easily accessible to voters, and there must be at least one such location within the territory of each election precinct. The candidate registered in the corresponding single-seat electoral district and an election association or election bloc with a federal ticket registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation must be given equal space for the display or posting of printed campaign materials.

If an electoral commission is notified of the distribution of anonymous or spurious printed campaign materials, it may take measures to stop this activity and will be entitled to request the appropriate agencies to stop the unlawful campaign activity.

CHAPTER IX. ELECTION FINANCING

Section 51. Financing of Election Preparations and Proceedings

The expenditures of electoral commissions on the preparations for elections of State Duma deputies and on the elections themselves, as well as the maintenance costs of electoral commissions during their term in office, will be covered by federal budget funds. These expenditures will be listed as a separate item in the federal budget.

Funds for elections of State Duma deputies from the federal budget will be disbursed to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation within 10 days after the date of the announcement of scheduled

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elections and will be distributed by this commission to the electoral commissions of members of the Russian Federation.

In the event of early elections to the State Duma, these expenditures will be covered by credits from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, secured by federal budget funds. In the event that budget funds are not transferred on schedule to the account of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to apply for credit to the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, and if the latter refuses to extend credit, it may apply to commercial banks for credit on competitive terms for the financing of election preparations and proceedings. These credits, including the interest on them, will be covered by federal budget funds no later than three months after election day. Any additional or new elections of State Duma deputies will be financed in the same way after the expenditure of all of the funds originally allocated for the elections.

The procedure for disbursing money to electoral commissions will be established by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

The chairmen of electoral commissions will take charge of the funds and will be responsible for the correspondence of financial documents to the decisions of electoral commissions on financial matters. After the elections are over, any unused budget funds will remain in the special accounts of electoral commissions for use for the purposes stipulated in the first paragraph of this section.

Section 52. Campaign Fund of Candidate for Deputy and Campaign Fund of Election Association or Election Bloc

Candidates for deputy and election associations and election blocs will set up their own election funds for campaign financing. The money in a campaign fund must be kept in a special temporary account in a branch of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation. The right to disburse money from the campaign fund for these purposes will be exercised exclusively by the candidate or by the election association or election bloc setting up this fund.

Branches of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation will open temporary accounts for candidates and for election associations and election blocs with a registered federal ticket on the basis of a written report from the corresponding electoral commission. Interest will not be calculated or paid on these accounts.

Campaign funds may consist of the following financial resources:

campaign resources allocated to the candidate or to the election association or election bloc by the appropriate electoral commission;

the candidate's own resources, which may not be in excess of 1,000 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections;

resources which have been allocated to the candidate by the election association or election bloc nominating him and which may not be in excess of 1,500 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections;

the personal resources of the election association or election bloc, which may not exceed 100,000 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections;

the voluntary contributions of physical and juridical persons.

The amount of contributions by physical persons to the campaign fund of a candidate for deputy may not be in excess of 20 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections, and contributions by physical persons to the fund of an election association may not be in excess of 30 times this amount. Contributions by legal entities to the campaign fund of a candidate for deputy or the campaign fund of an election association or election bloc may not be in excess of 200 times and 2,000 times, respectively, the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections.

Maximum expenditures by the candidate covered by the resources of the campaign fund may not exceed 10,000 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections.

Maximum expenditures by an election association or election bloc covered by the resources of the campaign fund may not exceed 250,000 times the minimum wage established by federal law on the date of the announcement of scheduled elections.

The following may not make contributions to campaign funds:

foreign states, organizations, and citizens;

stateless individuals;

Russian legal entities with foreign participation if the foreign capital represents more than 30 percent of their authorized capital;

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international organizations and international public movements;

local government agencies and state and municipal enterprises, institutions, and organizations;

military units and military institutions and organizations;

charitable organizations and religious associations.

Banks will notify the appropriate electoral commission of deposits in the special temporary accounts of candidates, election associations, and election blocs within three days after the deposit date.

If voluntary contributions to the campaign funds of candidates or the campaign funds of election associations and election blocs are made by physical persons not entitled to make these contributions, or if these contributions are made in amounts exceeding the limits specified in this section, the candidates, election associations, and election blocs must return these contributions, either in full or the portion in excess of the established limits, to the contributors, indicating the reasons for the return. Anonymous contributions will be deposited as state income.

Candidates and election associations may not use any campaign financing other than the money deposited in their campaign funds.

Banks will report the expenditure of funds in the special temporary accounts of candidates and of election associations and election blocs to the appropriate electoral commission in response to a written request.

If the candidate or the election association or election bloc uses other financial resources for the campaign in addition to the money in the campaign fund, the corresponding electoral commission will be entitled to petition a court to revoke the registration of the candidate or the federal ticket. This petition will be considered by the court within five days, or as quickly as possible during the five days prior to election day.

All financial operations with the special temporary accounts opened for candidates, election associations, and election blocs for their campaign funds will cease on election day. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and the district electoral commission may extend the term of these financial operations to cover expenditures made prior to election day on the basis of the appropriate claim by the candidate, election association, or election bloc.

Section 53. Procedure for Keeping Financial Records and Compiling Financial Reports

The procedures for keeping records of the receipt and expenditure of budget funds allocated for election preparations and proceedings and the resources in the campaign funds of candidates for deputy and the election funds of election associations and election blocs will be defined by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with laws of the Russian Federation.

The format of the financial report of electoral commissions on the receipt and expenditure of funds allocated for preparations for elections and the elections themselves and the financial report of the candidates for deputy, election associations, and election blocs will be established by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with laws of the Russian Federation.

Candidates for deputy will submit a financial report to the district electoral commission no later than 30 days after the publication of the election results. Election associations and election blocs will submit a financial report to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation within the same time period. Copies of these financial reports will be made available to the news media by the appropriate electoral commission.

Precinct and territorial electoral commissions will submit financial reports to superior electoral commissions no later than 10 days and 20 days, respectively, after the date of the publication of election results.

The district electoral commission will submit financial reports to the electoral commission of the Russian Federation member no later than 45 days after the publication of election results.

The electoral commission of the member of the Russian Federation will submit a consolidated financial report to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation no later than 60 days after the date of the official publication of the general election results.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will submit a financial report on the expenditure of federal budget funds to the chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation no later than three months after the date of the official publication of the general election results. This financial report should be published by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in its official press organ and made available to the news media within a month after its submission to the chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

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Section 54. Money Remaining in Campaign Funds

The candidate, election association, and election bloc will return the money remaining in campaign funds to the appropriate electoral commission within 30 days after election day in amounts proportional to the amount of money allocated to them by the corresponding electoral commission. At the end of this period any remaining budget resources will be transferred unconditionally by branches of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation to the account of the appropriate electoral commission in response to a request from the electoral commission.

All of the money remaining in the accounts of candidates, election associations, and election blocs after the elections are over will be transferred by the candidates and by the election associations and election blocs to the current (or settlement) accounts of the organizations and individuals contributing to their campaign funds, in proportion to the amounts they contributed, with the approval of the appropriate electoral commission.

Section 55. Auditing Service

An auditing service of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, made up of specialists from government agencies of the Russian Federation, will be set up to oversee the proper use of the funds allocated to electoral commissions for the organization of election preparations and the elections themselves and to monitor sources of contributions to campaign funds, the accuracy of the financial records of campaign funds, and the use of the funds by candidates for deputy and by election associations and election blocs.

CHAPTER X. VOTING PROCEDURE AND DETERMINATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Section 56. Polling Places

The precinct electoral commission will be allowed the use of the polling place without charge by the head of the corresponding local administration.

The polling place must include an area with booths, specially equipped stations, or separate rooms for a secret ballot. The booths, specially equipped stations, or separate rooms for a secret ballot will be furnished with tables and writing implements. Pencils may not be used for this purpose.

The precinct electoral commission will set up a stand in the polling place or directly in front of it, with sample marked election ballots and informational materials about all of the election associations and election blocs participating in the elections in the federal electoral district and about all of the candidates nominated by them for the federal electoral district, as well as all of the candidates running for office in the given single-seat electoral district. The informational materials about candidates and about election associations and election blocs and the information about their campaign platforms should not include propaganda slogans. The sample marked ballots on display should not include the names of election associations or election blocs with candidates running for office in the federal electoral district or the names of candidates running for office in the given single-seat electoral district.

Section 57. Election Ballots

Each voter will receive two election ballots of different types for the elections of State Duma deputies, with the distinctive formats to be established by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The format and Russian-language text of the election ballot for the federal electoral district will be approved by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation at least 28 days prior to election day. The text of the election ballot for the single-seat electoral district will be approved by the district electoral commission. The text of the election ballot should be printed on only one side of the ballot.

The names and symbols (if any) of election associations and election blocs with registered federal tickets will be listed on the election ballot for the federal electoral district in a sequence to be determined by lot. The ballot will also indicate the names of the public associations making up each of these election associations and election blocs. The drawing of lots will be conducted by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation with the participation of authorized representatives of election associations and election blocs at least 36 days prior to election day. The numbers assigned to election associations and election blocs in this process will remain the same until the end of the elections. The full names of the first three candidates on federal tickets will be listed under the names of the nominating election associations or election blocs. If the election association or election bloc has divided its federal ticket into regional groups during the registration process, the full names of the first three candidates in the corresponding regional group on the federal ticket will also be listed on the ballot. If there are no candidates who are not included in any regional group on a federal ticket broken down into regional groups during the registration process, only the full names of the candidates from the corresponding regional group will be listed on the ballot.

An empty square will be printed to the right of the name of each election association and election bloc. The list of election associations and election blocs will be followed

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by the entry "against all federal tickets," with an empty square to the right of it.

The full names of all candidates registered in a single-seat electoral district and the data specified in the fourth paragraph of Section 41 of this Federal Law will be listed in alphabetical order on the election ballot for the single-seat electoral district. If the candidate has been nominated by an election association or election bloc, the name of the election association or election bloc and the candidate's affiliation, if any, with a political party or other public association belonging to the election association or election bloc will also be listed on the ballot. If the candidate has been nominated directly by the voters, his political affiliation will be indicated only at the candidate's own request. There will be an empty square to the right of the data on each candidate. The list of candidates will be followed by the entry "against all candidates," with an empty square to the right of it.

Each election ballot should include an explanation of the procedure for marking it.

Election ballots will be printed in Russian. By a decision of the electoral commission of a member of the Russian Federation, election ballots in the republics making up the Russian Federation will be printed in Russian and in the official state language of the corresponding republic, and, if necessary, also in the languages of other nationalities of the Russian Federation in regions densely populated by them. If the election ballots for an election precinct are printed in two or more languages, the text in all of these languages will be printed on each ballot. The text of the ballot will be approved by the electoral commission of the member of the Russian Federation.

Election ballots for the federal electoral district will be printed on the orders of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation at least 20 days prior to election day. Election ballots for single-seat electoral districts will be printed within the same time period on the orders of the appropriate electoral commissions of Russian Federation members. Territorial electoral commissions will receive election ballots from district electoral commissions at least 16 days prior to election day. Precinct electoral commissions will receive election ballots from territorial electorial commissions at least four days prior to election day. The number of election ballots delivered to the precinct electoral commission may not exceed the number of voters on the list of voters in the election precinct by more than 0.5 percent in each electoral district. The signatures of two members of the precinct electoral commission, certified by the stamp of the precinct electoral commission, will be entered in the upper right-hand corner of the election ballot. Election ballots not certified by the precinct electoral commission will be declared ballots of the improper format and will not be counted when the votes are being tallied.

If several candidates withdraw from the race during the last 15 days prior to election day or if the federal tickets of several election associations and election blocs are rescinded during this period, territorial and precinct electoral commissions will cross out the data on these candidates or election associations and election blocs on the election ballots on the instructions of district electoral commissions.

Section 58. Voting Procedure

Votes may be cast on election day from 8:00 to 22:00 local time.

Precinct electoral commissions must notify voters of the hours and location of the polling place at least 20 days prior to election day through the news media or by some other means.

In election precincts established on ships at sea, in military units, in polar stations, and in remote and nearly inaccessible regions, the precinct electoral commission may close the polling place prior to the time specified in the second paragraph of this section if all of the voters on the list of voters have already cast a ballot.

A voter who will be unable to visit the precinct in his place of residence for some reason on election day may vote early by filling out an election ballot on the premises of the territorial (from 15 to 4 days prior to election day) or precinct (only during the last three days before election day) electoral commission in such a way that the confidentiality of the ballot will not be violated. If the voter casts his ballot on the premises of the territorial electoral commission, two members of the territorial electoral commission will sign this ballot on the back, and the signatures will be certified with the stamp of the territorial electoral commission. The voter will insert the marked ballot in an envelope, seal the envelope, and give it to the member of the territorial or precinct electoral commission on duty at that time. Two members of the corresponding territorial or precinct electoral commission will sign their names across the sealed portion of the envelope, and these signatures will be certified with the stamp of the corresponding electoral commission. The territorial electoral commission will deliver a list of these voters and the envelopes with their ballots to the appropriate precinct electoral commission at least three days prior to election day.

In the event of early balloting on the premises of the territorial electoral commission, the secretary of the precinct electoral commission where this voter lives will

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write "early ballot" on the appropriate line on the list of voters (after the sealed envelope with the election ballot has been delivered to the precinct electoral commission by the territorial electoral commission) and will sign his name above the entry.

District electoral commissions will be entitled to authorize the early casting of ballots, but no earlier than 15 days prior to election day, on ships which will be at sea on election day, and in polar stations and other remote and nearly inaccessible regions.

At 8:00 on election day the chairman of the precinct electoral commission will declare the election precinct open and show the empty ballot boxes to the electoral commission members and all voters and observers present in the polling place. The boxes will then be closed and sealed. Then the chairman of the precinct electoral commission will show them the envelopes left by early voters. The envelopes will be checked for signs of tampering. Each envelope will then be checked for the presence of the certifying signatures and stamp, and the correspondence of the number of envelopes to the number of related entries on the list of voters will be verified. Then the envelopes will be opened and the ballots in them will be dropped in the ballot box. If more than two election ballots are removed from an envelope, all of the ballots removed from that envelope will be voided, and this will be reported in a special document. After this the chairman of the precinct electoral commission will invite the voters to begin casting their ballots.

When the voter receives his election ballots, he will write the series and number of his passport or other personal identification on the list of voters. With the consent of the voter, or at his request, the series and number of his passport or other personal identification may be entered on the list of voters by a voting member of the precinct electoral commission. The voter will check the accuracy of the entry and sign his name.

If the voter cannot sign his own name to acknowledge his receipt of the election ballots, he will be entitled to request the assistance of another individual, with the exception of members of the precinct electoral commission, observers, or the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations, and election blocs. The individual assisting the voter will enter his name and signature on the list of voters in the column marked "signature of voter in receipt of election ballots."

Each voter will cast his own ballots. Ballots may not be cast for other individuals. The election ballots will be filled out in a booth, specially equipped station, or separate room for a secret ballot, with no one present other than the voter. A voter who cannot fill out the election ballots by himself will be entitled to invite any individual, with the exception of members of the electoral commission, observers, or the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations, and election blocs, into the booth, specially equipped station, or room for the secret ballot. The name of this individual will be entered on the list of voters next to the signature of the voter in receipt of the election ballot.

On the election ballot for the federal electoral district, the voter will make any mark in the empty square to the right of the name of the election association or election bloc with the federal ticket he supports, or in the square to the right of the entry "against all federal tickets." On the election ballot for the single-seat electoral district, the voter will make any mark in the empty square to the right of the name of the candidate he supports or in the square to the right of the entry "against all candidates."

The voter will deposit the marked election ballots in the ballot box. The ballot boxes must be located in full view of the members of the precinct electoral commission and the observers.

The precinct electoral commission must guarantee all voters a chance to cast ballots, including voters who cannot come to the polling place because of poor health or for other valid reasons. For this purpose, the precinct electoral commission should have the necessary quantity of portable ballot boxes, with the number to be determined by a decision of the district electoral commission. The request to vote outside the polling place will be confirmed by the voter in writing when the members of the precinct electoral commission arrive at his home. The request should contain the same information about the voter as the list of voters. After the voter has received his election ballots, he will make a note of this on his request and sign his name. Members of the precinct electoral commission who visit voters at their request must sign for the number of election ballots corresponding to the number of requests. The number of voter requests and the number of used and returned election ballots will be recorded in a separate report. The information that the voter cast his ballots outside the polling place will be entered on the list of voters. Observers will be entitled to be present when ballots are cast outside the polling place. After the members of the precinct electoral commission return to the polling place, the portable ballot box will not be opened until the tallying of votes begins. The organization and procedures of voting outside the polling place should exclude the possibility of violations of the voting rights of citizens and the possibility of violations of the confidentiality of ballots or of the distortion of the voter's expressed preference.

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The chairman of the precinct electoral commission will maintain order in the polling place. His decisions will be binding for everyone present in the polling place. In the absence of the chairman of the precinct electoral commission, his duties will be performed by the deputy chairman of the precinct electoral commission, and in his absence they will be performed by the secretary or by another precinct electoral commission member authorized by the commission.

If a voter believes he has marked a ballot incorrectly, he will be entitled to ask the member of the electoral commission issuing the ballots for a new ballot in exchange for the ruined one. The electoral commission member will issue a new ballot to the voter and will make the appropriate entry on the list of voters to the right of the voter's name. The ruined election ballot will be voided, and a document will be compiled to attest to this.

Observers representing candidates, election associations, and election blocs, the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations, and election blocs, foreign (or international) observers, and representatives of the news media may be present in election precincts during the balloting, the tallying of votes, and the compilation of official records of balloting results by precinct electoral commissions.

Section 59. Tallying of Votes in Election Precinct

At the end of the balloting hours, the chairman of the precinct electoral commission will announce that only voters who are already present in the polling place will be allowed to receive election ballots and cast their votes.

Before the ballot boxes are opened, members of the electoral commission will count and void the unused election ballots in the presence of observers representing candidates, election associations, and election blocs and any foreign (or international) observers in the polling place. The number of these ballots will be announced and will be entered in the official record of balloting results, after which the chairman of the precinct electoral commission will check the seals or locks on the ballot boxes for signs of tampering and then allow members of the precinct electoral commission, observers, and authorized representatives of candidates, election associations, and election blocs to check for signs of tampering, after which the boxes will be opened. The ballot boxes will be opened in sequence—first the portable ballot boxes and then the stationary ballot boxes.

The ballots in the portable ballot boxes will be counted first. The number must not exceed the number of written requests from voters to cast their ballots outside the polling place.

If the number of ballots in the portable ballot box exceeds the number of these requests, all of the ballots in the portable ballot box will be declared invalid by a decision of the precinct electoral commission.

This action and the names of the members of the precinct electoral commission who conducted the balloting outside the polling place will be recorded in a document which will be attached to the official record of balloting results.

Before the ballots cast in the federal electoral district and single-seat electoral district are tallied, ballots of the improper format—i.e., ballots which were not printed officially or were not certified by the electoral commission—and invalid ballots will be separated from the rest. Invalid ballots will be those from which it is impossible to determine the voter's choices, particularly those on which a mark (or marks) of any type appears in more than one square or does not appear in any square. If there are doubts, the precinct electoral commission will decide the matter with a vote. When the decision is made to invalidate a ballot, the electoral commission will indicate the reason for the decision on the back of the ballot. This entry will be endorsed by the signatures of at least three members of the precinct electoral commission. Invalidated ballots will be kept separate from the rest of the election ballots.

The votes will be tallied directly by the voting members of the precinct electoral commission without any interruptions until the balloting results have been determined. The results will then be announced to all members of the precinct electoral commission and to observers, including foreign (or international) observers.

The precinct electoral commission will compile official records of balloting results in the single-seat electoral district and the federal electoral district.

Each of the official records of balloting results will include the following data:

the number of voters on the list of voters, including voters added to the list;

the number of election ballots issued to the electoral commission;

the number of election ballots issued to voters in the election precinct on election day;

the number of election ballots issued to voters who cast their ballots early;

the number of election ballots issued to voters who cast their ballots outside the polling place;

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the number of voided election ballots;

the number of election ballots removed from stationary ballot boxes (with the exception of ballots of the improper format);

the number of election ballots removed from portable ballot boxes (with the exception of ballots of the improper format);

the number of valid election ballots;

the number of election ballots declared invalid (including a separate entry indicating the number of unmarked election ballots).

In addition to this information, Official Record No 1 on the balloting results in the single-seat electoral district will include the following data:

the full names of the candidates listed on the election ballot, and other data in the case of candidates with identical names;

the number of votes cast for each candidate;

the number of votes cast against all candidates.

Official Record No 2 of the balloting results in the federal electoral district will also include the following data:

the names of election associations nominating candidates on federal tickets;

the number of votes cast for each federal ticket;

the number of votes cast against all federal tickets.

These official records will be compiled in three copies in the presence of all members of the precinct electoral commission, observers, and the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations, and election blocs and will be signed by all members of the precinct electoral commission. A member of the precinct electoral commission who disagrees with all or part of the official record will be entitled to attach his dissenting opinion to the official record, and the official record will make reference to this attachment.

All complaints (or reports) regarding violations of this Federal Law received by the precinct electoral commission, and the electoral commission's decisions on them, will be attached to the first copies of the official records. Certified copies of the complaints (or reports) and the decisions of the precinct electoral commission will be attached to the second copies of the official records.

The official records of balloting results may not be filled out in pencil and may not be corrected in any way. If the precinct electoral commission discovers errors or inconsistencies in the records, or if there are doubts about the accuracy of the records, a superior electoral commission will be entitled to call for a recount of the votes by this precinct electoral commission. The recount will be conducted by the precinct electoral commission in the presence of a member (or members) of the superior electoral commission.

The first copies of the official records of the precinct electoral commission will be sent without delay to the corresponding territorial electoral commission as soon as they have been signed.

The second copies of the official records will be kept by the secretary of the precinct electoral commission until the end of its term along with the sealed election ballots and lists of the members of the precinct electoral commission with a voice but no vote, observers sent to the precinct by candidates, election associations, and election blocs, foreign (or international) observers, and representatives of the news media who were present when the votes were tallied.

The third copies of the official records will be accessible to the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations, and election blocs, observers, members of the precinct electoral commission with a voice but no vote, and representatives of the news media.

Election documents, including election ballots, will be turned over to the corresponding territorial electoral commissions no later than 10 days after the official publication of the election results in the single-seat electoral district.

Section 60. Establishment of Balloting Results by Territorial Electoral Commission

By summing up the data in the official records of balloting results of precinct electoral commissions, the territorial electoral commission will establish the balloting results in the corresponding territory within the three days following election day. The summation of the data in the official records of precinct electoral commissions will be conducted directly by voting members of the territorial electoral commission.

The territorial electoral commission will compile official records of balloting results, including data on the number of precinct electoral commissions within the corresponding territory and the number of official records of precinct electoral commissions used as a basis for the official records of balloting results, as well as the consolidated data of the records of precinct electoral commissions specified in paragraphs 9-11 of Section 59 of this Federal Law.

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The official records of the territorial electoral commission will be compiled in three copies and will be signed by all members of the electoral commission present. A summary table of balloting results in the corresponding territory, including the data of the official records of all precinct electoral commissions, must be appended to the official records. A member of the territorial electoral commission who disagrees with all or part of the official record will be entitled to attach his dissenting opinion to the official record, and the official record will make reference to this attachment.

Complaints (or reports) regarding violations of this Federal Law received by the territorial electoral commission and the electoral commission's decisions on them will be attached to the first copies of the official records. Certified copies of the complaints (or reports) and the decisions of the territorial electoral commission will be attached to the second copies of the official records.

The first copies of the official records of the territorial electoral commission will be sent without delay to the corresponding district electoral commission after they have been signed along with the official records of precinct electoral commissions and the summary table.

The second copies of the official records will be kept by the secretary of the territorial electoral commission until the end of its term along with the summary table and lists of members of the territorial electoral commission with a voice but no vote, observers representing candidates, election associations, and election blocs, foreign (or international) observers, and representatives of the news media who were present when the balloting results were established and the official records were compiled.

The third copies of the official records and the summary table will be accessible to the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations and election blocs, observers, members of the territorial electoral commission with a voice but no vote, and representatives of the news media.

Section 61. Establishment of Election Results in Single-Seat Electoral District and Establishment of Balloting Results in Federal Electoral District

By summing up the data in the official records of balloting results of territorial electoral commissions, the district electoral commission will determine the results of elections in the single-seat electoral district and establish the balloting results in the federal electoral district in the corresponding territory within the seven days following election day. The summation of the data in the official records of territorial electoral commissions will be conducted directly by voting members of the district electoral commission.

The candidate supported by the highest number of voters casting a ballot in the election will be declared the winner in the single-seat electoral district. If candidates receive an equal number of votes, the winner will be the candidate who registered first.

The district electoral commission will declare the elections in the single-seat electoral district invalid if violations of this Federal law preclude the accurate establishment of the results of voting or if the elections are declared invalid in more than three election precincts. The district electoral commission will set aside the elections in the single-seat electoral district if less than 25 percent of the registered voters cast ballots in the elections.

The number of voters casting ballots in the elections will be determined by the number of signatures on voters' lists in receipt of election ballots.

The district electoral commission will compile Official Record No 1 of balloting results in the single-seat electoral district on the basis of the official records of the corresponding territorial electoral commissions and will include the following data in the record:

the number of territorial electoral commissions in the district;

the number of official records of territorial electoral commissions used as the basis for this official record;

the number of voters in the single-seat electoral district on lists of voters;

the number of election ballots issued to precinct electoral commissions;

the number of election ballots issued to voters in election precincts on election day;

the number of election ballots issued to voters who cast their ballots early;

the number of election ballots issued to voters who cast their ballots outside the polling place;

the number of voided election ballots;

the number of election ballots removed from stationary ballot boxes (with the exception of ballots of the improper format);

the number of election ballots removed from portable ballot boxes (with the exception of ballots of the improper format);

the total number of valid election ballots;

the total number of invalid election ballots (including a separate entry indicating the number of unmarked election ballots);

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the full names of the candidates listed on the election ballot and the number of votes cast for each of them;

the number of votes cast against all candidates;

the full name of the elected candidate.

The district electoral commission will compile Official Record No 2 of the balloting results in the federal electoral district on the basis of the second set of official records of territorial electoral commissions and will include the data specified in the 11th paragraph of Section 59 of this Federal Law.

The official records of the district electoral commission will be compiled in three copies and will be signed by all members of the electoral commission present. A summary table of balloting results in the single-seat electoral district, including the data of the official records of all territorial electoral commissions, must be appended to the official records. A member of the district electoral commission who disagrees with all or part of the official record will be entitled to attach his dissenting opinion to the official record, and the official record will make reference to this attachment. The first copies of each official record and the summary table will be sent without delay to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, and the second copies of these official records and the summary table will be kept by the secretary of the district electoral commission.

Complaints (or reports) regarding violations of this Federal Law received by the district electoral commission and the electoral commission's decisions on them will be attached to the first copies of the official records. Certified copies of the complaints (or reports) and the decisions of the district electoral commission will be attached to the second copies of the official records.

The second copies of the official records will be kept by the secretary of the district electoral commission until the end of its term along with the summary table and lists of members of the district electoral commission with a voice but no vote, observers representing candidates, election associations, and election blocs, foreign (or international) observers, and representatives of the news media who were present when the balloting results were established and the official records were compiled.

The third copies of the official records and the summary table will be accessible to the authorized representatives of candidates, election associations and election blocs, observers, members of the district electoral commission with a voice but no vote, and representatives of the news media.

If errors or inconsistencies in the official records of the district electoral commission and other violations are discovered, or if there are doubts about the accuracy of the official record of balloting results in the federal electoral district, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will be entitled to request a recount of the votes by this district electoral commission. The recount will be conducted by the district electoral commission in the presence of a member (or members) of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Election ballots will be kept for at least a year, official records of balloting results and of election results will be kept at least a year after the date of the announcement of the date of the next elections, and other documents of the electoral commissions will be kept on file for at least six months.

Section 62. Determination of Election Results in Federal Electoral District

By summing up the data of the second set of official records of district electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will tally the votes cast in the federal electoral district. The data of the official records of district electoral commissions will be summed up directly by voting members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Election associations and election blocs with candidates supported by less than 5 percent of the voters who cast ballots in the election will be excluded from the distribution of deputy seats in the federal electoral district.

The number of voters casting ballots will be determined by the number of election ballots of the proper format removed from ballot boxes.

The election association or election bloc with a federal ticket supported by 5 percent or more of the voters who cast ballots in the election will receive deputy seats in numbers to be determined according to the procedure specified in Section 70 of this Federal Law.

If the list of candidates of the election association or election bloc was broken down into regional groups, the deputy seats won by the election association or election bloc will be assigned first to candidates not included in any of the regional groups. The remaining deputy seats will be assigned to candidates from regional groups, with each group receiving deputy seats in numbers proportional to the number of ballots cast by voters for the federal ticket within the territory of the corresponding Russian Federation member or group of

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Russian Federation members. The number of deputy seats will also be determined according to the procedure specified in Section 70 of this Federal Law.

The distribution of deputy seats among candidates on the federal ticket of an election association or election bloc will be conducted according to the candidate listing sequence established when the federal ticket was registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Deputies elected to the State Duma in single-seat electoral districts will be excluded from each federal ticket. In this case the deputy seats will be assigned to candidates on the same federal ticket in accordance with their position on the list or in the corresponding regional group.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will compile an official record of the distribution of deputy seats in the federal electoral district among election associations and election blocs and will include the following data:

the number of official records of district electoral commissions used as the basis for this official record;

the number of voters in the Russian Federation on the lists of voters;

the number of election ballots issued to precinct electoral commissions;

the number of election ballots issued to voters in election precincts on election day;

the number of election ballots issued to voters who cast their ballots early;

the number of election ballots issued to voters who cast their ballots outside the polling place;

the number of voided election ballots;

the number of election ballots in stationary ballot boxes (with the exception of ballots of the improper format);

the number of election ballots in portable ballot boxes (with the exception of ballots of the improper format);

the total number of valid election ballots;

the total number of invalid election ballots (including a separate entry indicating the number of unmarked election ballots);

the names of election associations and election blocs with registered federal tickets and the number of votes cast for each federal ticket;

the number of votes cast against all federal tickets;

the names of the election associations and election blocs included in the distribution of deputy seats;

the full names of elected deputies from each federal ticket.

A summary table of balloting results in the federal electoral district, including all of the data in the second set of official records of district electoral commissions, will be attached to the official record, as well as complaints (or reports) with regard to violations of this Federal Law received by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, and the decisions of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on them.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will set aside elections in the federal electoral district if the number of voters casting ballots in the election is equivalent to less than 25 percent of the voters included on lists of voters.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will acknowledge that all deputy seats in the federal electoral district will remain undistributed if all election associations and election blocs have been excluded from the distribution of deputy seats in accordance with the second paragraph of this section.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will set aside the elections in the federal electoral district if violations of this Federal Law during the balloting and the determination of election results preclude the accurate establishment of voting results.

If the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation has set aside the elections in the federal electoral district or has declared them invalid or if no election association or election bloc is to be included in the distribution of deputy seats, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will schedule repeat elections in the federal electoral district. The time periods for election activities specified in this Federal Law may be reduced by no more than one-third by this commission.

Section 63. Establishment of General Election Results

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will establish the general election results within the three weeks following election day on the basis of the official record of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the distribution of deputy seats among election associations and election blocs in the federal electoral district and on the basis of the official records of district electoral commissions on elections of State Duma deputies.

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The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will set aside elections in a single-seat electoral district if it learns that violations of this Federal Law in this electoral district during the elections preclude the accurate determination of the results of voting.

In single-seat electoral districts where the elections have been set aside or have been declared invalid, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will schedule repeat elections. The time periods for election activities specified in this Federal Law may be reduced by no more than one-third by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation may order the appointment of new members to district, territorial, and precinct electoral commissions in these cases.

Section 64. Registration of Elected State Duma Deputies

After the official record of election results has been signed, the corresponding electoral commission will report this to the candidate elected to serve as a State Duma deputy. In accordance with the requirements of this Federal Law, a candidate elected to serve as a State Duma deputy must inform the appropriate electoral commission of his resignation from duties incompatible with the status of a State Duma deputy in writing within three days.

If the deputy elected as a result of the distribution of seats among the federal tickets of election associations and election blocs does not satisfy the requirement of resignation from all duties incompatible with the status of a State Duma deputy within three days, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will assign his deputy seat to a candidate from the same federal ticket in accordance with his position on the list or in the corresponding regional group.

After the official publication of the general election results, the appropriate electoral commission will register the elected State Duma deputy and issue proof of election to him on the condition of his satisfaction of the requirement specified in the first paragraph of this section.

Section 65. Publication of Balloting Results and Results of Elections of State Duma Deputies

The results of balloting in each election precinct and the election results in the electoral district, including all of the data in the official records of the corresponding electoral commissions, must be made available to any voter or observer and to any representative of the news media.

The district electoral commission will publish the data of both sets of the official records of all territorial and precinct electoral commissions in the corresponding single-seat electoral district in the local press within the month following election day.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will publish the general election results in the news media, including the data of both sets of the official records of all district electoral commissions during the month following election day.

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will print a report on balloting results, including all of the data of the official records of all electoral commissions, with the exception of precinct commissions, and the data on elected deputies specified in the third paragraph of Section 40 of this Federal Law, in its own official press organ no later than three months after election day.

Section 66. Use of Computerized Data Processing System

If a computerized data processing system is used in the elections, the electoral commission will form a team of voting commission members and members with a voice but no vote to monitor the use of the computerized data processing system. All electoral commission members will have access to any system input and output.

From the time the first ballots are cast to the time when the official record of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation has been signed, the computerized data processing system will be used exclusively to monitor the progress and results of balloting by transmitting data from subordinate electoral commissions to superior electoral commissions.

The transmission of any kind of data from the data processing centers of superior electoral commissions to the centers of subordinate electoral commissions will be prohibited during this time, with the exception of signals confirming the receipt of information.

Data on the progress and results of balloting received through the computerized data processing system will be regarded as preliminary information with no legal significance.

The text of the computer printouts of data entered into the computerized data processing system must be attached to the electoral commission record kept by the secretary of the electoral commission. The authenticity of computer printouts will be confirmed by the signatures of members of the team monitoring the use of the system and the individual responsible for system input.

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CHAPTER XI. ASSIGNMENT OF VACATED DEPUTY SEATS

Section 67. Assignment of Seat Vacated by Deputy Elected on Federal Ticket

In the event of the early withdrawal of a deputy elected as a result of the distribution of deputy seats among the federal tickets of election associations and election blocs, his seat will be assigned to the next elected candidate on the same federal ticket by a decree of the State Duma.

If the ticket of the election association has been broken down into regional groups and the deputy who withdrew was in one of the regional groups, the seat will be assigned to the next candidate on the list in the same regional group on this federal ticket. If there are no more candidates in the corresponding regional group, the seat will be assigned to the regional group on the same federal ticket receiving the highest number of votes and including candidates who did not attain the status of deputy.

If there are no more candidates on the federal ticket, the seat will remain vacant until the next elections of State Duma deputies.

Section 68. Assignment of Seat Vacated by Deputy Elected in Single-Seat Electoral District

In the event of the early termination of the powers of a deputy elected in a single-seat electoral district, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will schedule additional elections of a State Duma deputy in the corresponding single-seat electoral district within a month after the deputy seat has been vacated. Additional elections will not be scheduled or held if the amount of time remaining in the term of the State Duma is one year or less.

The nomination of candidates in a single-seat electoral district, their registration, and other election activities will be conducted in accordance with this Federal Law.

CHAPTER XII. LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS

Section 69. Liability for Violation of Voting Rights of Citizens

Individuals who preclude the free exercise of voting rights by a citizen of the Russian Federation or disrupt the work of electoral commissions or members of electoral commissions by means of bribery, fraud, the use of physical violence or threats of violence, the use of fraudulent election documents, the deliberately inaccurate tallying of votes, or some other means, individuals who deliberately spread false rumors about candidates or commit other actions to defame and discredit candidates, and individuals who interfere with the legal activities of the authorized representatives of candidates and observers, including foreign (or international) observers, or who prevent campaign activities will be subject to administrative or criminal penalties.

CHAPTER XIII. PROCEDURE FOR PROPORTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF DEPUTY SEATS

Section 70. Procedure for Proportional Distribution of Deputy Seats

The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation will count all of the votes cast in the federal electoral district for the federal tickets of election associations and election blocs supported by 5 percent or more of the voters casting ballots in the election. This number will be divided by 225—the number of deputy seats to be distributed in the federal electoral district. The result will be the primary quotient.

Then the number of votes for each federal ticket included in the distribution of deputy seats will be divided by this quotient. The whole number of the product of division will be the number of deputy seats to be assigned to the corresponding federal ticket.

If there are undistributed seats remaining after these actions have been taken in accordance with the second paragraph of this section, a secondary distribution will be conducted. Undistributed seats will be assigned to the federal tickets with the highest fractional number (or remainder) of the product of division in accordance with the second paragraph of this section. If the remainders are equal, preference will be given to the federal ticket winning the highest number of votes. If the number of votes is equal, preference will be given to the federal ticket registered first.

If the federal ticket has been broken down into regional groups, this will be followed by the distribution of seats within the ticket—among the groups and the candidates not included in any of the groups (if there are any of these on the ticket). During the first stage of this distribution, the candidates not included in any of the regional groups and not elected in single-seat electoral districts will be assigned seats first.

The remaining seats not distributed within the ticket will be distributed among regional groups according to the same calculation procedures. If the necessary number of candidates is absent in one or more of the regional groups, the remaining seats will be distributed among other regional groups according to the same rules.

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When seats are being distributed within the ticket, the quotient may not coincide with the primary quotient established in accordance with the first paragraph of this section.

CHAPTER XIV. FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 71. Election Associations Participating in Elections of Deputies to Second State Duma

All-Russian public associations established according to the procedure specified in the Law of the USSR "On Public Associations," with charters envisaging participation in elections to federal governing bodies, and registered with the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice at least six months prior to election day, may participate in elections of deputies to the second State Duma in accordance with this Federal Law.

Section 72. Enactment of This Federal Law

This Federal Law will go into force on the date of its official publication.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation

Moscow, The Kremlin
21 June 1995
No 90-F3

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